

## **OFFICIALS CELEBRATE THE GRAND OPENING OF PROGRESS PLACE APARTMENTS FOR TAY**

**By Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige, Public Information Officer II**



Fourteen transition age youths (TAY) now consider Progress Place I and II Apartments their new home. Hosted by Jovenes, Inc., a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony were held on Friday, July 13, 2012 at the apartment buildings in Boyle Heights. The apartments provide affordable housing with supportive services for homeless youth.

First District County Supervisor Gloria Molina and Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) Director Marvin Southard, D.S.W. were some of the attendees at the event. "This project represents a venture in partnerships for a group of youth that need opportunities to make long-lasting change for good – and for the beginning of their new life," said Dr. Southard.



“As Dr. Southard mentioned earlier in his speech, it takes a partnership of many people to make this happen. It takes a lot of people coming together,” stated Supervisor Molina. “Places like this are so essential. We know there’s a need. We know we need to create this kind of thing all over the county, not just in Boyle Heights.”

Sponsored by Jovenes, Inc., Progress Place I and II, also known as the Learning to Live Campus, are dedicated to housing youths between the ages of 18 to 25. The mission of Jovenes, Inc. is to help homeless youth and at-risk families become productive and integrated members of the community by providing comfortable, stable housing and access to job and skills training.



Progress Place I and II are funded by the voter-passed Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), the Multi-Family Housing Program and the City of Industry Fund. Also invested in this project were LACDMH, the California Housing Finance Agency, Century Housing, the Los Angeles County Development Commission Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles, and the Department of Housing Community Development Multi-Family Housing Program.